AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method of producing dual-layer slabs, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) preparing a first mix comprising a first hardening resin, a first filler, and a first granular material for forming ~~the~~ a publicly-oriented visible side of a dual-layer slab;

(b) depositing a thin layer of the mix to form a first layer on a first support, the first support comprising one of a rubber material and elastic material, the first support being lined with a separating material;

(c) depositing a web of continuous glass filaments on an upper surface of the first layer, the web of continuous glass filaments being pre-impregnated with one of the first hardening resin and a compatible resin;

(d) depositing a second mix comprising a second filler, a second granular material, and one of the first hardening resin and a compatible resin on an upper surface of the web to form a second layer, the second granular material being a ~~light-weight~~light-weight granular material, the one of the same hardening resin used in the mix and a compatible resin being present in the second mix with a volumetric percentage substantially equal to a volumetric percentage of the hardening resin in the first mix;

(e) applying a second support onto an upper surface of the second layer, the second support comprising a rubber material and elastic material, the second support being lined with a separating material;

(f) vacuum compaction by means of application of a pressure on top of said second support and simultaneous application of a vibratory movement of a predetermined frequency;

(g) hardening of the hardening resin by means of the action of heat and/or a catalyst;

(h) finishing the dual-layer slab wherein the first layer does not comprise the second granular material;

wherein the first and second filler comprise a fine powder.

2. (previously presented) Method according to Claim 1, wherein said light granular material present in the second mix of said second layer is an expanded inorganic material with a substantially spheroidal form, the granules having a size of between 0.1 and 6.0 mm.

3. (currently amended) Method according to Claim 2, wherein said light-weight granular material is chosen from expanded glass, expanded clay or ~~other~~ expanded inorganic materials ~~such as alumina~~.

4. (previously presented) Method according to Claim 1, wherein the first hardening resin comprises an epoxy resin or a polyester resin.

5. (previously presented) Method according to Claim 4, wherein an organofunctional silane is added to the polyester resin.

6. (previously presented) Method according to Claim 1, wherein the first granular material present in said first layer, intended to form the visible side of the resultant slab or board article, is chosen from natural stone materials such as marble, granite, porphyry, quartz, etc. and man-made materials such as ceramic materials or other materials of lithoid appearance, such as glass, silicon, shells, metals, etc.

7. (previously presented) Method according to Claim 1, wherein the first and second filler comprises quartz or carbonate powders.

8. (previously presented)Method according to Claim 7, wherein said quartz is in the form of powdered cristobalite.

9. (withdrawn) Dual-layer slab article obtained by the method according to any of the claim 1.

10. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein step (g) is performed by heating of said second layer to a temperature which is 6 to 15.degree. C. higher than a surface of the first layer in contact with the first support.

11. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein step (f) is performed with the frequency being 2,000 to 4,000 Hertz.

12. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein step (h) is performed so that the first layer has a thickness of 4 to 6 mm and the second layer has a thickness of 10 to 40 mm.